[LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: Thank you, Senator Ashford and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Tyson, T-y-s-o-n, Larson, L-a-r-s-o-n, here representing District 40 from O'Neill. And I am here today to introduce LB204. LB204 has two components to it. The first tightens up the reporting requirements for cases of animal abuse that would require any person, not just a state official, who witnesses animal abandonment, neglect, or mistreatment to report the incident to law enforcement within 24 hours of reasonably suspecting a case of animal abuse took place. LB204 also requires that the individual who witnessed the animal abuse turn over any and all evidence they have including video, photographs and audio recordings of the incident. An individual who fails to comply with these requirements would be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor which is the same punishment for those who fail to report cases of abuse of vulnerable adults or of children. The purpose behind this section of LB204 is to ensure that cases of animal abuse are reported quickly and accurately in order to stop alleged animal abuse as soon as possible. Right now only government agents have a duty to report animal abuse. This would expand that duty to any person who witnesses animal abuse within the first 24 hours of reasonably suspecting that abuse has occurred. Opponents of this bill are concerned that this bill will deter whistle-blowers from exposing animal abuse and mistreatment and will criminalize them for their actions. This is the exact opposite of what this part of the bill tries to accomplish. This bill, in fact, emphasizes the importance of reporting animal abuse immediately so that abuse can stop immediately and law enforcement can investigate the issue immediately. This bill encourages those who witness these incidents to report them in a timely manner protecting animals from further abuse ensuring that evidence can be gathered efficiently so that animal abusers can be prosecuted. What this bill does discourage is someone holding onto evidence of animal abuse for days, weeks, or even months after the incident of the animal abuse has occurred. Individuals will go undercover to document alleged animal abuse over an extended period, hold on to footage documenting the alleged abuse, edit the evidence and then release it to the public without ever notifying authorities of the abuse. How

would this help Nebraska's animals or our agricultural industry if documented abuse isn't reported as soon as possible. Per statute, any individual who suspects or witnesses abuse directed towards children or vulnerable adults is required to report it right away. Those who value animals as much as they value their fellow humans shall want any abuse or mistreatment to be stopped as soon as possible and should want to see those animal abusers brought to justice. The second component of LB204 would make it a crime for any individual to falsely misrepresent himself or herself on an application or an agreement to be employed at any...at an animal facility. In making that misrepresentation, the individual has to intend to damage or interfere with the operations of the animal facility either by causing economic damage to the operations property, including harm to its animals, or by causing injury to another person in the course of causing the economic damage. The penalty for violating this portion of the bill varies depending on the severity of the damage and harm caused by the individual's actions. Throughout the country there have been incidents of individuals either tied to animal rights organizations or acting on their own volition who gain employment to an animal facility with an intent to seriously harm the animal facilities' operations. These individuals who gain access to an animal facility have done things such as release animals from the facility's property, set fire or otherwise damage equipment or animals at the animal facility, or as mentioned above will film operations with intent to release footage as propaganda without reporting potentially unlawful activities to the business owners or law enforcement. LB204 would deter those individuals from misrepresenting themselves to a particular employer to gain employment to then later use that employment to harm the animal facility. Last year I brought a bill similar to LB204 which would have made it a crime for individuals to interfere with the operations of an animal facility. Opponents to this bill were concerned about the bill's unconstitution...that the bill was unconstitutionally vague and did not make exceptions to those activities that were protected by the First Amendment. Opponents were also worried that an individual wouldn't know what the penalty they would face for their actions. Taking those concerns into consideration, I modeled the penalty portion of this bill after the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act which Congress passed in 2006. The severity of the penalty depends on

the severity of the economic or bodily damage inflicted and each crime and its consequences are very specifically laid out in this section. LB204, like the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, also (inaudible) specifically exempting activities that are protected by the First Amendment from criminal penalties. In Nebraska, we have every incentive to treat our animals well. And not only do farmers in this state believe that animals should be cared for as humanely as possible, but they also know that a good animal practice is result in a better product and promote the overall safety of the animal operation. I know that 99 percent of farmers in this state treat their animals well and with respect. And this bill's intent is to prevent the other 1 percent from giving those farmers and ranchers a bad name. Thank you and I'd attempt to answer any questions the committee may have. [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Senator Seiler. [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: Maybe I missed it, Senator, but who do you make the report to? I don't see who you file a report. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: You have to report it to...just a local police official. [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: Doesn't say...I don't think your bill says that, unless I missed...that was why I was trying...in your first part where you have to telephone as soon as possible to report, I don't see where it says who you call. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: Right now the section that we're changing just deals with government employees they have to report it to. [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: It says any person who observes...took out the words... [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: And if it...and if it's not, I'd be happy to ensure that it... [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: Take a look at it again. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: ...to the proper...and we'll look and I'd be happy to discuss with you. [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: Okay. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: But if it's not in there, then it would be an oversight on my part and I apologize, but we do need to make sure that these are reported to the proper law enforcement agencies as soon as possible. [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm curious, where did you get this language from? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: We became...last year I introduced a bill and it had...it raised several concerns and I... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But where did you get the language from? What organization has put...is behind this? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: No organization. As I said, we drafted the penalties portion off the Animal Terrorism Act. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this is your...so this is about terrorism. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: No, this is not about terrorism. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, you got it from the Terrorism... [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: Last the year the ACLU...last year the ACLU expressed concern about certain portions of the bill being unconstitutional. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, why did you get it from the terrorism act if it's not about terrorism? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I don't think the terrorism act necessarily deals with terrorism, Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I think there's, obviously, a broad definition...there is obviously broad definition of terrorism. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So recreational facility...a recreational facility may not have anything to do with recreation; or a swimming pool has nothing to do with swimming. But here is what I'm going to ask you. You're really concerned about groups, because you spent a little time at the beginning about your concern for animals and, you know, then all the rest of that was about these groups that are catching these big operators who are cruel to animals, who are vicious and ought to be prosecuted, put out of business, and put in prison, and they're the ones you're worried about, aren't they? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: And I agree with you. No, I agree with you, those people that are vicious to animals need to be caught right away. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then why are you going to make... [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: What I disagree with is the fact that people aren't turning in that animal abuse right away and continually letting it continue. They should report it just like

they have to report, as I said, child abuse. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Okay, I heard you and I read it. Why is it a crime if you don't turn all the information you have, why do you have to give them all these documents and videos and so forth? Why do you have to give that to them? Why can't you just tell them? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I think any law enforcement officer or anybody that is going to investigate the crime will want the evidence to be able to prove that those people are guilty. And if we want to...you know, if that's something that you want to work with, Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't that what police work consists of, getting the evidence, visiting the crime scene? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: We want to make sure that they have the evidence. And like I said, if you want to work to change... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you going to deputize these people then so that they're now part of the police force and suppose to collect all the evidence? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: No, I don't think you deputize them, but I think we need to make...if they're turning in animal abuse, we want to make sure that the police force does have the evidence that they have in order to prosecute those that are getting... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When you report...when you make a report about possible abuse of a child or a vulnerable adult, all you do is call and make the report. You don't have to give videos or anything else. But let me ask you this, who asked you to bring this legislation the first time around? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: Nobody. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Nobody, is that a name or is that to let me know that no person. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: No person. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Do you think this bill is going to get out of this committee? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: That's up for this committee to decide. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm asking what you think. You have an opinion. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I do not have an opinion. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You do not have an opinion. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: No. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think I'll support this bill? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I don't...I'm not inside your head, Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You don't have an opinion. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: That is your opinion. I don't know what your opinion will be. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You don't have an opinion. I'm just trying to establish for my colleagues that you...it's hard to make you be forthcoming. And when you can come here with a bill like this and not have an opinion about what's going to happen to it, I have an opinion about every bill that I offer, maybe you... [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I would like for it to get out of this committee, Senator Chambers, but I don't sit on this committee, so I won't have one of the eight votes. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm asking you...what do you think are the odds of it getting out of here? Do you think it's got a 50-50 chance? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I do not know, Senator Chambers, to be... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If it gets out, are you going to prioritize it? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: This year, no. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then it doesn't need to get out anyway, does it? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I would like to see it on the floor next year; as you know, we lay over bills, so to...if it does come out, it will be placed on General File in worksheet order and it will be able to come up next year. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What happened to the bill last year? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: Last year the bill that I introduced I knowingly said that it probably wasn't as constitutionally sound... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It died? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: ...as constitutionally sound as it needed to be. So yes, it did die. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What happened to it? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: It died when the Legislature ended. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if this died by any means necessary, you could offer another bill next year, huh? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I could. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You enjoy this, don't you? Don't you? I've not seen anybody so cheerful as you are this afternoon. You're enjoying yourself, aren't you, at my expense? [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: I enjoy my job, Senator Chambers. And I think you enjoy yours. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. That's all I have. Thanks a lot. [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thanks, Tyson. I don't see any other questions. [LB204]

SENATOR LARSON: Thank you. [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay, proponents? How many opponents do we have? Okay. Opponents? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I'm a proponent. [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay. Proponents first, and then... [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: (Exhibit 21) I also have a memorandum from Dr. Carolyn Orr. She is a certified professional animal scientist that talks about some of the people that you're talking about. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did you want to sit? [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay, okay, I think we have to...you have to...sit down... [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Okay. [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...and give us your name and then we'll...you can talk about the document that you're handing out. Give us your name and then... [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Good afternoon. My name is Annette Sweeney, A-n-n-e-t-t-e, last name is Sweeney, S-w-e-e-n-e-y. I'm a livestock producer and also former chair of the House Agriculture Committee in the state of Iowa. And I come to you today as a livestock producer and also the author of the bill that was passed in Iowa a year ago. And as a livestock producer I want to make sure that my animals are well cared for, and I also want to be assured that the people that I have coming on to my place, and also people in my neighborhood when they have someone come in to help them with their livestock they are who they say they are. And throughout the United States we have quality assurance programs. And with the quality assurance programs that are implemented throughout the livestock industry, you have to go through, before you are hired in particular facilities, to the correct handling of the livestock. And at the end of your education, you sign an affidavit that says, I will treat those animals in the correct manner and a safe manner and the best manner possible for the livestock. You also sign an affidavit at the end saying that you will, if you see anybody mishandling deliberately the animals that you are to report it immediately. So with this legislation that

we have before you here, it gives a livestock producer the assurance that when they hire someone, they are who they say they are, they're going to treat your animals in the best possible way. And also this legislation tells us we want to stop animal abuse, not to let it go on, we want to stop it. And in Kansas, North Dakota, and also Montana, this legislation has been in place for the last 10 to 15 years. And as for constitutionality, it has met all possible requirements. So I ask for your vote positively to let it go on, and also let it be a priority for you for this legislative session on LB204. Any questions? [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Senator Christensen. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Chairman. How similar is this bill to the one that you presented a year ago in Iowa? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: What we passed in Iowa is we just kept it to the part of if you lie on a job application to gain access to the livestock facility, that is a crime. And then from...I wish we would have done the 24 hours that the senator has done in order to report it, because we want animal abuse stopped and the only way you're going to stop it is if you report it. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: I agree with the reporting things that way, and I think I understand his intent in this bill, but have you seen in Iowa a lot of problems with people staging events and things this way? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, Sir. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Referred to in this... [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, Sir. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: ...Carolyn Orr... [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, Senator. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Would you say how many cases? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: There are three cases that I know and I have spoken with people that were in a livestock facility where someone was hired under false pretenses, they lied on their job application who they were. They then went and abused animals themselves and they had the video camera in their granola bar in their pocket videoing them abusing the animals without...you couldn't see their face, all you could see is their hands and their arms. And what gave it away was this person had a tattoo around her wrist and then they could track who that person was. And then all of a sudden the video was released. The video or none of the abuse was reported to any of the managers at that time and all of a sudden she quit; six months later you have a video and then all of a sudden it's blown way out of proportion where that person themselves from an activist group did the abuse. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: That would literally just about shut down an operation by the time they fought that... [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I'm sorry. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: It would literally about shut down an animal operation or something that way if that type of abuse or video got released blaming that facility just about ruin that farmer...animal producer (inaudible). [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, sir. And that's the intent for some of the activist groups. Yes, sir. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you. [LB204]

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, Senator. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: I've got several questions and some observations and some comments because I'm a rancher from western Nebraska. And I have had very strict policies with regard to animal abuse at my ranch. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Me too. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: When I'm not there, it doesn't always deter what happens. Sometimes it takes a long time for those people to come to me and tell me what has happened. So let me set all this down as precedent. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Um-hum, okay, I'm a livestock producer too, I'm calving cows right now, or my husband is. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: But what I'm wondering is, in my two cases, I've prosecuted two people for animal abuse that worked for me because I felt very seriously that this was a very important issue. The question comes down to what is going to happen to law enforcement? How are we going...are we going to overwhelm our law enforcement system in some respect because who decides what is abuse and who is it? And if it's going to be the sheriff, you know, in Grant County, Nebraska, I'm going to tell you, everybody handles their animals differently. So if I've got five employees and they see somebody using a whip and they don't think that's appropriate, you know, are we going to overwhelm our law enforcement system? That's my first question. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Okay, I really appreciate that question. In Iowa we have to where you can report it to a supervisor and/or law enforcement, and then also the veterinarians can come and you can report it and then they can come in...and what has

happened with Temple Grandin and another, Carolyn Coursey, I believe, is another person that they have a review board. And some of the videos that have been shown lately have been of what we normally do and depicted very badly. And so there is a review board. And in with the state of Nebraska, I'm not sure what your laws say that how you could address this, whether you could have a local veterinarian go out and look to see if the abuse is occurring or how you could handle it. But you could address that on, you know, you could have the vets, you could have your supervisors, you could have law enforcement. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Okay. And the second part of the bill seems to me to address what I'm going to call industrial agricultural processes. And I'm concerned as much as I'm shocked and offended at seeing those films; and I realize they're very sensationalistic, I know what it's all about, it concerns me that the industry is going to try to suppress any kind of investigation because the only way we're going to stop animal abuse is for us as producers to say we're not going to put up with it. And sometimes it takes these kind of sensationalistic tactics to get that to happen. You know, when Temple Grandin started her work, I think people thought she was a little way out there. Now today we all respect what she has done and what she has implemented. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Um-hum. Within the industry, I think that what I work and we have a large number of hog facilities where I'm from, and what has happened is that all the employees, all the managers have gone through strict quality assurance, what I talked about earlier, and I don't think this is going to shut it down because the people, the managers, and the people that own ranches, cattle, that they want the best thing happen too, and I don't think it's going to suppress it at all. In fact, I think people are more forthcoming in seeing that...like the bill here that we have, in order...you need to report it within 24 hours or, you know, whatever time frame that you have, because I think people with this kind of legislation feel empowered that they want to stop the abuse because I've got something that will back me up. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: But what I'm talking about, the second part of the bill, I'm talking about the people who go in with the intention of ratting out this company for its animal abuse. Maybe they went in with an agenda, perhaps they do; who get falsely hired. I'm a little bit concerned about that, that what that's going to do to us as an industry. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I would like you to read what Dr. Orr...in fact, Dr. Carolyn Orr was a classmate with Temple Grandin and she got her Ph.D. at the same time. And what we have seen, it's not a suppression of people saying that, you know, what the abuse is going on, is that it is a hidden agenda of what some of these groups want us to be and to be able to out-price the livestock facilities so then we have to keep closing them down. And in order for us to become... [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: I understand that. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Okay. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Do you think that the California barn would still be running if that hadn't happened...if that video hadn't been made? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: With...I'm sorry, I don't know what one you're talking about. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: (Inaudible) I can't remember, a feedlot or a sale barn or a packing house in California, a year or so ago, a video came out with regards to that. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I've talked to individuals that were directly involved with that particular video, and the cow that was down was put there the night before. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: I would like to see that. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Okay. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: I've never seen documentation on that, if you've got that, I'd like to see that. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Okay. Yes, sir. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, sir. I will. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Oh. Doesn't the requirement that you report it within 24 hours require that somebody...let's say that somebody who is an employee at some facility that would be covered by this act, and they become disturbed by what they see and they begin to build evidence. This would require that whatever you learn in the first 24 hours you've got to share with whoever we eventually require the report be made to, when they may actually be able to document this better if they have more time. In other words, we're making them jump the gun in some sense aren't we? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Abuse is abuse and when it happens it's abuse. And if they think that they need to build a case, if you see the abuse going on, it's happened. If they think it's going to happen again and they need to build a case... [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Why the hurry? Why 24 hours? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Because when you see it happen, you should report it. We're asking people to report it. We want to protect our animals. We don't want it to happen again. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Okay, I think I get it. Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It's a crime if somebody lies on an application to get a job in one of these facilities? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, sir. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it a crime in Iowa if I lie on application to get a job at a university as a professor and I lie on my application, is that a crime in Iowa? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Sir, I don't know that. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you aware of any other situation in Iowa where if you lie on a job application it's a crime? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: No, sir, I'm not aware of that. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: In most instances if you have lied and it's found out, you lose the job. Why is it a crime in this situation? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: With this particular situation and what we passed in Iowa is...with...if you lie on your job application with the intent of causing harm to the facility. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if you just lie, then that's not a crime? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: That's a good... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If you just lie on your application blank, that's not a crime. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: It should be, lying is wrong. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The lying itself is not a crime. You have to have the intent to do this other nefarious action. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, sir. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How are you going to prove that is what somebody's intent was when they got the job? Maybe they lied to get the job because they had a felony conviction and they said I've never committed a felony. But then the fact...you find out that they committed a felony, but while on the job they happen to care about animals and they compile this information which is valid. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: If it's valid, then prosecute. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then they're not...but then that person hasn't committed a crime. If you lied to get the job, but you get valid information, then you're not prosecuted for lying, is that true? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I don't know, sir, that has never been proposed, or it hasn't happened. But if he compiles...if that person compiles the abusive information, then the abuse will be prosecuted. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But the person, is that person then going to be prosecuted for lying? The person lied...okay, let me make it simple, I lie...what kind of lie am I going to tell when that would be prosecuted? I want to get a job in your operation and my intent is to get...to prove what I've been told is happening there. So I say, I want a job. You say, why do you want this job? Well, I need some money. I want to go to school and I know how to do this kind of work so I'd like to get a job here. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Um-hum. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the reason I'm wanting to work there is to compile evidence to document what I've been told is going on there that it's harmful to these animals and I document it. Not only do I document it, I don't reveal anything in the first 24 hours. In fact, I go on for two or three weeks and I'm constantly videoing all of this abuse. And it's clear that the videos have not been doctored. The abuse occurred. Then the person who runs the operation say, well, you lied about why you wanted to come here. And I said, where was the lie? You told me you wanted... you needed money, but your real intent was to get the job here so you could get this information. And I'd say, that's correct, that's why I wanted the job. But I was not going to tell you that I'm getting the job here to document the abuse going on in your facility. Now I didn't tell you the truth about why I came there, so I committed a crime by not revealing to you that I'm going to do this undercover work and turn you in. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Okay, the undercover work, if it is documented and turned into the proper authorities... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Not in 24 hours. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: ...according to the bill, but if you had even up to 24 hours, I can't speak on your bill, but in Iowa if you document that abuse and it is abuse and you report it to the proper authorities without turning it to the news media, that's abuse. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But why is it a crime if I turn if over to the news media? I'm not slandering you, because truth is a defense against slander. You actually did it. I can show that to anybody I want to. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Well, as soon as abuse occurs, you should be reporting it.

[LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You make that a crime because you...what you really want is to keep it from being exposed. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: No, sir. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't that true? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: No, sir, not at all. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, we have a different view of what your intentions were. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes we do. Yes. My intentions... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I have a different view of what Senator Larson's intentions are. So we're going to be in the business of divining people's intentions, I'm just letting you both know that I think your intentions are different from what you say. I don't think your intentions are to protect animals from abuse. You would want that abuse discovered by any means necessary and you would be happy to have it discovered. And you would even put into the bill that if this person has profited from this abuse, then you will get a percentage of what they profited from that abuse, just like any other whistle-blower. That's what you would be doing. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Well, a whistle-blower doesn't have to commit fraud or an illegal activity to be a true whistle-blower. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You're making it illegal. It's not illegal now. You want to make it illegal. If it is illegal now, why do we need this bill? It's not illegal, it's not fraud. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I want to protect our animals in order for us to be able to report it right away. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How is it a fraud? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: And to empower people to report it. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How is it fraud if they come in and get this information and release it to the public, how is that fraud? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: If they come in and they lie, that is fraud, that is fraudulent activity. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Who asked you to come here and testify, if I may ask? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I volunteered. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you read about this bill coming and that's why you volunteered? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, sir. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Nobody contacted you? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I contacted Senator Larson's office. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you wanted to come here and help him get his bill passed. Did you read his bill before you offered to support it? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, sir, I did. And I applauded them for what he did for the 24 hours. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, how much different is his bill from your bill that you got in Iowa? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: In Iowa, we talked about that earlier over here, I think it was Senator Christensen or Seiler, that in Iowa if you lie on a job application to gain access with the intent of committing fraudulent activity, it is a crime. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, yeah, but what constitutes fraudulent activity? You are trying to define what is legal as being fraudulent. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Don't we pass bills to define legalities? [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't pass the kind of bills you're talking about. And if I was in Iowa, you wouldn't have got your bill passed there either. (Laughter) I guarantee you. Or as my friend from Louisiana used to say, I think you've gone to the great beyond, or wherever they go when they die. I guarantee you. This is an atrocious bill. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: I applaud Senator Larson for this bill, so we have a definite divide going on here. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, atrocious people often get applauded by other people. I've seen fist fights where somebody is being beaten into the ground to a pulp and people are applauding and urging it on. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Well, it's too bad that you have that type of an analogy. And for me this bill will help people to be able report animal abuse and it needs to be reported.

[LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's all that I have. Thank you very much. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: And we do that by making it crime not to do it within a certain period of time. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: It is lined out in the bill. I have to yield to... [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Let me ask a question. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Okay. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Once you got your bill passed in Iowa that said it is a crime to lie on an application to secure a job, did the applications for a meat processor change? In other words, in response to your bill, did now the application say do you intend to come here to do videos or otherwise investigate cruelty to animals? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: That was in place before my bill passed. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: So the applications ask you that? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: And you make it a crime to say... [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: To lie. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: No, when the guy might be perfectly willing to work eight hours a day doing exactly what you hired him to do? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Well, that's fine if he was hired, you know, and... [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: But what makes it a fraud is the answer that they give on the application to work at the place where this is all happening. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes. Yes. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Got it. Okay. Oh, Senator Davis. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: In Iowa, any individual who sees animal abuse is obligated then to report that to the local authorities? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Right now, all we passed was lying on your job application. And with that we want...it's in statute right now, you're supposed to report it, and we talked about that earlier to your county supervisor, to your county sheriff, and also to the state vet. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: You mean lying on the job application? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: No, no, no, excuse me, of animal abuse. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Okay. Run that by me one more time. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: It's on the book right now, if you have...if you suspect animal abuse, you are to report it to a county supervisor, county sheriff, or the state vet; it's on the books right now. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Does that happen, do you know? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Yes, oh yes. And in fact, we just put together a coalition of...Iowa Farmer Coalition for Care of Animals and our state vet, our secretary of agriculture, our animal rescue league person; and I apologize, I can't remember the fourth person on that, but they call in and say, hey, I suspect abuse at this possible. And then they have a group of people that go out and inspect to see whether actual abuse is happening. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: And if it's not reported, it's a criminal offense? [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: If it's not reported? We don't have that on the book right now. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Because I think that's...unless I'm wrong, is that what this reads, Senator Larson? Which I think is in some respects laudable, but very complicated. Thank you. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Um-hum. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator Seiler. [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: In Section 6 on page 10 of the bill, it talks about the report being made on preprinted forms. Is that something that's unique to Iowa? I don't know of any sheriffs department or police department or anybody like that that has preprinted forms for you to report on. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: We do not have that in Iowa, sir. I would have to yield to Senator Larson. [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: Okay, that's what I wanted to know if you had those preprinted forms? Thank you. [LB204]

ANNETTE SWEENEY: Thank you very much for your time. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Okay, thank you. Any other proponents of LB204? Seeing none, is there anyone here in opposition? [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: (Exhibit 22) Vice Chairman Lathrop and members of Judiciary Committee, I'm Alan Peterson, A-l-a-n P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n, and I'm here again on behalf of ACLU Nebraska which tries to conserve the constitutional rights of people in this state. I have testified a long time, many years. I've never seen a more blatantly, unconstitutional approach to lawmaking than this bill. Last year's was bad. This one...well, there is three reasons why you should kill this as quick as possible, humanely, of course. Number one, what is the need? We already have the federal act as to real terrorism which...and that's for people who get in or sneak in or come in at night and steal animals or destroy property on one of these factory farms. And that is being challenged on First Amendment grounds, but it has held up, and there have been a few prosecutions under it. That ought to be good enough. Number 2, it's already grounds to fire somebody if you find they lied on their application. And if you could actually prove some damages, I suppose you could bring a civil fraud case. So what is this at? I'm not too happy about the representation that this is to protect animals. I've handed out information including two blog histories of this ag gag movement which started in 2003 with the ALEC, A-L-E-C Organization, finding us in goodly part by the Koch brothers and other big industrialists. And the purpose was not to protect animals, but to protect ag industrialists from whistle-blowers. There isn't any doubt about that. Iowa is the first state to pass one of these things last year. I wish I had been in the Iowa Legislature at the time to testify, but it passed. Nebraska's is far worse, far worse. In the rather lengthy letter, and I apologize for that, I almost wrote a brief on this because it is so bad. The second big problem, no need, but the second problem is, okay, it's going to blow up in your face, folks. If you claimed somebody should have reported their reasonable suspicion immediately or within 24 hours and that's a crime, what about everybody else on the

whole factory farm? May I finish that point? [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: You may, go ahead. Consider it a question. [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: Thank you. I quoted...for fun I quoted an old Bob Dylan lyric in my note to you which is appropriate and it is to the effect that, they'll stone ya when you try to be so good, they'll stone ya just like they said they would, but you won't feel so all alone because everybody must get stoned. And that is what happens here. If the whistle-blower is going to be prosecuted, why wouldn't everybody on the whole place...in other words, this thing is a mess. And finally, if I can ask you... [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: You may. [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: I'll finish quickly. It violates the First Amendment, freedom of speech and press, clearly. It's attempting to chill speech. It violates the Fourth Amendment, reasonable search and seizures, only can be done in this country under the Fourth Amendment. This takes your property, that is all your evidence, without showing a probable cause or warrant. The Fifth Amendment, you've got to turn yourself in if 24 hours passes and you haven't already reported it, you got to turn yourself in and file a report. That violates self incrimination. And it violates due process completely. You don't get any hearing or a notice before they take your property. This is terrible. This is just awful. And, frankly, it's disingenuous to say you're trying to protect animals unless you regard the Koch brothers as animals. Thank you. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This is my first session back, and in the few days that I've been here, relatively speaking, I have never encountered so much trash legislation from ALEC and these other outfits, the Koch brothers. And what ALEC is is an outfit that gives senators what they call a membership and will pay their way to be propagandized

and they become little flunkies for ALEC. They bring bills that say, Nebraska cannot obey federal laws that regulate firearms. Federal law doesn't apply in Nebraska. They've got a bunch of lunatic people...a lot of people who are influenced by lunatics telling them that the U.N. is going to take away their parental rights. And they know this is a fact because it has happened in Germany; it has happened in Ireland; and each one who calls me names a different country. I say, well, the U.N. doesn't pass laws in America. Well they did in Germany. They did it in Ireland. I say, well how do you know. Well I know. And I tell them frankly, as an elected official, if I let you believe that nonsense, I'm not doing my job. You're running around here terrified, I want to let you know that is not going to happen in America. A bill was brought saying that the U.N. is going to take people's property without due process of law. This fits right in that lunatic category and that is why I asked Senator Larson where he got it. This didn't come out of his head. If this came out of his head, he couldn't have graduated from Georgetown or George Washington or wherever he said he graduated from unless he's fibbing about that. If this is what goes on in his head, then it is a lot of education wasted. And I've been making it clear to people that when these lunatic ALEC bills come to this community, I will see that everything that I possibly can do will kill it. And not because I have five votes, but to show my colleagues how nonsensical this is and how we will look as stupid as the ones who brought it; we'll look as crazy as the ones who drafted it; and we'll look as irresponsible as anybody who would pretend to take it seriously. We know what this is about. They have even had television programs about it. Maybe they don't know that some of us watch television. And the attempt is made to cover up and conceal animal abuse. That's what this is for, not to help animals and to pretend that it is on the level of requiring a person to report the abuse of a child or a vulnerable adult is obscene. When you look at what is in this legislation...that is why I'm glad, Mr. Peterson, that you came and presented the information that you did. [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: Thank you. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that's about all that I have except that I want to ask you a

question. How are you going to be able to continue...how long will you be able to continue performing the service that you do in the way you performed it by presenting this information to us today? [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: I hope for many years, because it's really what I care about... [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I'm pulling for you. [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: ...more than anything else at this point. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so eat an apple a day, keep the doctor away, eat your asparagus and your broccoli and then if you have problems, talk to me and we'll work that out. [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: I just want to say, I don't mean to show disrespect for any senator, but the product that was presented here, this bill, is rotten to the constitutional core. The bill deserves no respect, even though I do like and respect Senator Larson. This should be killed. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I find him to be very charming, very engaging, and he even makes me laugh. Thank you. [LB204]

ALAN PETERSON: Thank you, Senators. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Thank you, Alan. Anyone else here in opposition? [LB204]

SENATOR SEILER: Senator Chambers, he's younger than you and I. (Laughter) [LB204]

JOHN HANSEN: Mr. Vice Chairman, members of the committee, the hour is late. My name is John Hansen, J-o-h-n H-a-n-s-e-n. I'm the president of Nebraska Farmers Union. We're the second oldest, second largest general farm organization in the state. We do not support this bill. We do not believe that there is a substantial problem that needs to be addressed above and beyond the federal law that exists today. In our view, this bill is a part of a national strategy on the part of large vertically integrated industrialized livestock production folks and we knew it would be coming to our state and you look at these kinds of things. We've seen in recent years efforts to do those things in order to be able to help their interests to identify and target and weaken corporate farming restrictions around the country. And so the same agenda, the same players, same rhetoric, the same talking points get used state after state, efforts to beat down local planning and zoning. And so when we saw this one first roll out, we knew it would come to a state like us because we're the largest red meat producing processing state in the country and it would be a matter of time until it showed up. And so it was no surprise. This approach, in our view, does not necessarily help protect animals at all. It really is about being able to get control of any kind of damaging video or materials as quickly as possible so you can disarm anybody who has that kind of information. It puts an honest employee who, for the very best of reasons, signs up, becomes active in the operation, is going along minding their business and all of a sudden a problem happens and at the point that it happens if he turns it in within 24 hours and all of the proof that he has of it, then he has also put all of his fellow workers in a vice. He has put himself in a vice because then the presumption of innocence is gone as the employer can come back and bring charges against him in saying you lied on your application and he said, I came with no such intent. And so then it's up to him with his very limited financial resources. A lot of rich folks don't work in hog confinement facilities. Now put him in a very difficult financial position to be able to prove what his intent was. And I think it's always very, very dangerous and extremely bad public policy, and certainly not constitutional. And Alan Peterson did a nice job of laying that out to try to criminalize human intent. And with that I would close and be glad to answer any questions. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: I see no questions. But thanks, John, for coming down. [LB204]

JOHN HANSEN: Thank you. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Anyone else here to testify in opposition. Yeah, come on up. Are these folks with you? Are they watching or are they all going to testify too? You guys testifying or just...okay, anybody else going to testify? Okay, our last witness of the day. Welcome to the Judiciary Committee. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Good evening, Senators. I'm Kevin Fulton, F-u-l-t-o-n. Whistle-blowing employees have played a vital role in exposing hidden problems in many industries, including agriculture. It is a process that should be encouraged. LB204 does not do that. It's not aimed at protecting animals. It does just the opposite. In many situations penalize whistle-blowers and protects entities that are perpetuating animal abuse. The livestock industry has no intentions of stopping animal abuse. If they did, they would have taken action a long time ago. They only started doing some things recently because they've been exposed. They tend to defend it, displace blame, and deflect attention, and the evidence shows that in the media and how they react to this. And the reality is, you can't expose a problem if it doesn't exist. I make my living as a farmer and a rancher raising livestock full time in Sherman County. I'm a huge proponent of humanely raised livestock. And I feel that LB204 taints the reputation of the industry that I'm a part of. I feel it's a huge blunder for our industry and it tends to backfire on the consumer level. It is just yet another way to make the consumers feel they're being deceived. It makes us look guilty when we close the doors. I want to send...if we want to send this message to consumer that we produce the most...the best quality food and raised in a humanely and sustainable manner, then we need to start putting our money where our mouth is. We need to encourage transparency and accountability instead of eroding it with bills like this. In this regard, LB204 is a step in the wrong direction, it is a step backwards. I believe that, you know, the exposure to animal cruelty and inhumane

conditions by investigators on factory farms in recent times has played a huge role in initiating positive changes in the livestock industry. It has prevented problems from escalating in many situations. We need to continue this process, not work against it. If a lot of these factory farms had glass walls, we wouldn't be here having this debate. But the reality is, you have closed doors. There's billions of animals raised in these factory farms that have no voice except by people that are willing to step out, go out on a limb and say this is wrong and there is abuse here. And I don't think we should be trying to curtail that. On my farm, Fulton Farms, we're proud of the way we raise and care for livestock. We've hosted visitors from all over the world. And this includes ag and livestock organizations, animal welfare and advocacy groups, consumers, many individuals including undercover animal investigators. Come to our farm, bring your camera, bring your videos, show the world what we're doing. People that have noting to hide, hide nothing. Yes, Senator. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What do you think is the benefit of the approach that you're taking. You can complete your statement. And then what is the benefit overall that you think is derived from what...from the approach that you take? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Well, I believe that people eat the food that I produce deserve to know how it is produced. And I think if I show them that, then they become customers and we've even worked to develop markets here with several organizations in this state, humanely-raised products and we're moving forward, and so it's value-added, it allows young farmers to return to the farm and get into livestock operation where they don't have to own a million-dollar factory farm and become a serf to some company like Tyson Foods. I think that's one of the big benefits. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And did you have any other points that you were going to make there? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: I might have. (Laughter) I don't believe that agriculture, specifically the livestock industry, deserves a free pass when it comes to accountability or transparency no matter how sanctimonious some of us...some people feel that their so-called mission of feeding the world has become, because it is not about that. And this is not about...this is not an animal rights issues, this is about human responsibility, responsibility of people that are caretakers of the animals to do what is right. And as a farmer/rancher I've got employees and they come to me with their problems, but they don't always come to me within the first 24 hours or 48 hours. What if they say if they came to me and I say, gee, you didn't tell me this problem, so you better just go back, keep your mouth shut, and go about your business, or I'm going to turn you in and then you're going to get charged with a criminal offense. I don't think that's a very good idea. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator Chambers. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I like, especially, what you said about those who have nothing to hide, hide nothing. The transparency is good. Bring your undercover people, let them find what they want to find and show the world. And my friend, if they do that, you'll find the world beating a path to your facility and I'd be one of the people. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: I appreciate that. Last we saw the drones flying over our farm, just waved at them. Take as many pictures as you want. I don't care. [LB204]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right on. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Just try to get my good side. That might be hard to do. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Is that your family back there giggling about your good side? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: No, I don't know any of those people back there. (Laughter) [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator Davis. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Mr. Fulton, how many employees do you have? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Anywhere from one to...up to as many as six or eight throughout the year. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Have you had animal abuse issues at your operation ever? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: No, no. Keep a pretty tight rein on them. That doesn't say we couldn't have a problem. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Do you train your people? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Yes, we do. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Do you sit them down and talk about it? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Yes, we do; yes, we do. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Good for you, I applaud you for that. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Yeah, yeah. I'm the chairman of the ag advisory council for the Humane Society, U.S. here in Nebraska. And we have a lot of farmers that are with that organization that are promoting Nebraska Farmers Union as well that promote humanely-raised product. And so...and I'm not...also not a part of the quality assurance program that is promoted by the industry groups. And I don't think what necessarily a...well, I'll just say I'm not a part of that. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Are you aware of fraudulent videos being made? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: No, I'm not. In fact, I'm friends with several people that have been undercover investigators that have released some of the problem videos that have gone viral that you've seen. I've had candid conversations with these people; I've been invited to their homes. I've stayed with them. And I can tell you that these people are not anti-agriculture. They are concerned people that are against animal abuse just like I am. And I will, you know, put my farm on that. [LB204]

SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Senator Christensen. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Chairman. Did you say you're from HSUS? [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Yes, I'm a member of the HSUS, along with a number of other ag groups in the state. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: I'm not sure how you worded it, I should have wrote down. At the end you were talking about factory farms. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Yes. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: At the beginning you made statement about farms and the abuse that is there. I guess I take a little offense. I'm a rancher. My place is open. I have no problem with people visiting. But I also know that if I abuse my animals, I ain't going to make money. There's not that huge a deal. So I think you're overexaggerating that there is a ton of this abuse. There is a number...you would probably call it a factory

farm, hog facilities in my place, that yeah, they're metal buildings, they have doors open, you can sneak in and look if you really wanted to. I can walk up to any one of the them and knock on the door, they'll let me in, I got to shower and go watch. That's the way they do business in my area. And some of these guys are in eastern Nebraska too. So is there some bad actors? I'm sure there is and I hope they get caught. But categorize that most operations are bad, I take offense to because it ain't going to work. And the same as you see this legislation as trying to protect mega-farms or things this way, I think you're trying to categorize people into a lot of bad actors out there and, you know, I guess I don't know how you would categorize a corporation farm, but I'm just a little offended on how you said some things. And from what I know really goes on out there, because I visit a lot of different operations, so. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: I take a little bit of offense to you saying that I...I did not say that there was tons of abuse out there going on. So you're putting words in my mouth. So you're saying things I didn't say. And so you misheard. There's abuse out there. I didn't say there was tons of abuse; I didn't say all the farms. And it has nothing to do between corporate or family farms. And I think that's important to understand. Abuse is abuse whether it's a family farm...most corporate farms are...most factory farms are family farms. So we probably disagree on that; that's fine, but I didn't say some of the things you alleged. So I take offense to that. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Well, I don't think they're...I didn't try to put no words in your mouth. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: But you did. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: I don't know how you stated it, it caught me off guard or wasn't paying attention to it. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Okay, all right. [LB204]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: But I do appreciate your saying you don't believe there is tons of offense out there because I don't think there is, because you can't afford it. So, we'll go on from there. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Yeah. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Okay. Thank you for your testimony. I think that's it. [LB204]

KEVIN FULTON: Thanks for letting me. [LB204]

SENATOR LATHROP: Anyone else here in opposition? Anyone here to testify in a neutral capacity? And, Senator Larson, I saw just gave me the waive sign, so that will close our hearings for the day. Thanks for your participation. [LB204]